REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the application. On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 10-11, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,484,162 (Edlund) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,847 (Stier).

Edlund is directed to a system and method that associates a label and description with a search query such that the query, label, and description can be stored in a shared query repository to allow queries to be retrieved by multiple users for reuse. The shared query repository can be searched so that an appropriate query can be located and retrieved.

Stier is directed to an entity's operational performance and involves monitoring use of its knowledge by measuring use of a knowledge base storing its knowledge and monitoring knowledge that it generates by evaluating knowledge quality and efficiency of its knowledge generation.

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 12-14 are patentable over Edlund in view of Stier, as neither Edlund nor Stier, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, "a unit for receiving an input of a message describing know-how information about a problem occurring during the search processing from a user, in a case where the input number measured at the end of the search processing exceeds a predetermined threshold value" as recited in claim 1, for example.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the above-identified feature of Edlund is taught by Edlund's language stating, "[t]he form window accepts a user input for a query label and for a corresponding query description, both of which will be associated with the search query in the Query Repository."

Applicants respectfully submit that the query label and corresponding query description of Edlund is not know-how information about a problem occurring during search processing, as recited by the language of currently amended claim 1, for example. Rather, the query label simply identifies the query, and the query description simply describes the query.

As Stier is directed to simply monitoring use of an entity's operational performance, Stier does not teach or suggest the above-identified feature of the claims of the present invention.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 12-14 are patentable over Edlund in view of Stier, as neither Edlund nor Stier, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests, "a unit for receiving an input of a message describing know-how information about a problem occurring during the search processing from a user, in a case where the input number measured at the

end of the search processing exceeds a predetermined threshold value," as recited in independent claim 1.

As Birkhoelzer is directed to an operating method for a reception computer, Birkhoelzer does not add any relevant information to the combination of Edlund and Stier. Therefore, dependent claims 4 and 9, via independent claims 1 and 6, are patentable over the references.

Dettinger is directed to evaluating a query. Therefore, Dettinger does not add any relevant information to Edlund. Hence, claims 6, 12, and 14 are patentable over the references.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.
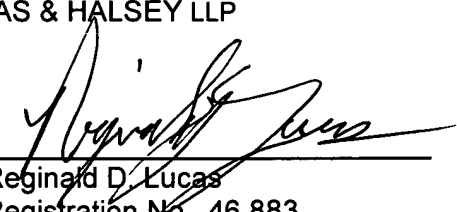
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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